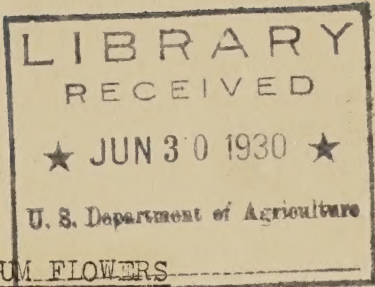


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY

METHOD OF PREPARING KEROSENE EXTRACT OF PYRETHRUM FLOWERS

The pyrethrum flowers should be soaked in kerosene oil for a period of 48 hours. The flowers should be used at about the rate of 1 pound to each gallon of kerosene. A more complete extraction can be secured by soaking the flowers, for 24 hours, in one-half the quantity of kerosene used, transferring them to the remainder of the kerosene for the next 24 hours, and then mixing the two lots of extract. During the process the flowers should be agitated occasionally to insure complete extraction. The oil is then allowed to drain off and the flowers discarded.

Powdered pyrethrum can be used instead of the flowers, but it is more expensive and it is difficult to prepare the extract without allowing some of the powder to remain in the kerosene. This is not objectionable except for the fact that it will tend to stain the objects struck by the spray.

If the spray is to be used in barns and against flies on livestock, ordinary kerosene oil is very satisfactory. This grade may be used also for household spraying, but it is more inclined to soil fabrics and it is therefore advisable to use the kerosene known as "water white" in the preparation of the spray for household purposes. Sprays made with either grade are inflammable.

Kerosene-pyrethrum extracts are used for the purpose of killing flies and they have little repellent value. For this reason, in spraying livestock, and because repeated heavy applications tend to burn the animal, an effort should be made to strike the flies with the spray rather than to drench the animal.

In combating flies in houses and barns, it is best to close the buildings as tightly as possible and then thoroughly fill the air with the liquid in finely atomized form. Those flies which are struck directly by the spray and most of those which have contact for some time with the floating mist will finally fall and die.

Pyrethrum flowers are grown in Dalmatia and Japan and imported to the United States by a number of companies. A few of these are listed below. The price of the flowers fluctuates widely from year to year, but at the present time they may be produced in quantity at from 40 to 50 cents per pound.

Allaire, Woodward Co., Peoria, Ill.
J. R. Hopkins Co., 135 William St.,
New York, N.Y.
Edward L. Eyre & Co., Merchants
Exch. Bldg., San Francisco, Cal.

McCormick & Co., Baltimore, Md.
John Powell & Co., Inc.,
12 Water Street, New York, N. Y.
Stallman & Co.,
229 Pearl St., New York, N. Y.

F. C. Bishopp
Senior Entomologist in Charge
Insects Affecting Man and Animals.

THURSDAY

1907

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